EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

In a time where our Nation's emergency management is strengthening from the local level to a national scale, accreditation represents a significant achievement. As the eminent emergency management agency in the region, part of VITEMA's overall strategic goal and vision is to obtain accreditation status.

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) is a standards-based voluntary assessment and accreditation process for government programs responsible for coordinating prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for natural and human-caused disasters. Accreditation is based on compliance with collaboratively developed national standards, the Emergency Management Standard by EMAP.

VITEMA is one step closer to that goal. In July 2014, a team of assessors will provide a baseline assessment of VITEMA, as the agency eyes full accreditation.

VITEMA must demonstrate, through self-assessment, documentation and an on-site assessment, that the emergency management program meets the Emergency Management Standard, a set of 63 national benchmarks. This initial visit will give VITEMA a starting point towards achieving this goal.

EMAP, an independent non-profit organization, is a standard-based voluntary assessment and peer review accreditation process for government programs responsible for coordinating prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for natural & human-caused disasters. Accreditation is based on compliance with collaboratively developed national standards, the Emergency Management Standard by EMAP.

The Emergency Management Standard by EMAP is the set of 64 standards by which programs that apply for EMAP accreditation are evaluated. The Emergency Management Standard is designed as a tool for continuous improvement as part of the voluntary accreditation process for local and state emergency management program.

The Emergency Management Standard covers:

•Program Management
•Administration and Finance
•Laws and Authorities
•Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Consequence Analysis
•Hazard Mitigation

- Prevention
- Operational Planning
- Incident Management
- Resource Management and Logistics
- Mutual Aid
- Communications and Warning
- Operations and Procedures
- Facilities
- Training
- Exercises, Evaluations and Corrective Action
- Crisis Communications, Public Education and Information

The Emergency Management Standard is reviewed and updated through the work of the EMAP Technical Committee, which makes recommendations to the EMAP Commission on a three-year review cycle.

Accreditation is open to all U.S. States, territories, and local government emergency management programs. Anyone can subscribe to receive standards and guidance materials.

For more information about EMAP visit http://www.emaponline.org/